



Social Security Update (January 28th-February 15th) Highlights

- **235** letters, emails and faxes were sent on behalf of FreedomWorks to members of Congress asking them to support the President's plan to save Social Security with personal accounts.
- FreedomWorks member Josh Wright was honored with the opportunity to sit in the **President's box during the State of the Union Address**. Josh also participated in a January town hall event with President Bush in Washington, D.C as a representative of FreedomWorks.
- **Dick Armey** gave a powerful speech to members of the **Republican Study Committee** during their policy retreat. Armey discussed the merits of reforming Social Security through a system of personal accounts and discussed specific strategy and tactics for seeing it enacted. The more than 50 members in attendance took his words to heart and presented a bold plan for reform with large accounts (6%) the very next day.
- FreedomWorks had the special privilege of being asked by the White House to provide grassroots support for a **town hall tour on Social Security reform with President Bush**. Specifically, FreedomWorks was asked to identify both audience participants and candidates to appear on stage with the President. Hundreds of FreedomWorks activists answered the call and attended town halls in Fargo, North Dakota; Great Falls, Montana; Omaha, Nebraska; Little Rock, Arkansas; Tampa, Florida; and Raleigh, North Carolina. In Tampa and Raleigh FreedomWorks activists were also selected to be on stage with the President.
- More than **100 Florida FreedomWorks activists** from across the state attended the President's town hall meeting in Tampa, and FreedomWorks member Carlos Huertas participated in the event with President Bush on stage.
- An army of **300 North Carolina FreedomWorks activists** boarded buses as early as 4:00 in the morning to attend the President's town hall meeting in Raleigh. Member Cyndi Godfrey discussed reform with President Bush at the event, and White House staff thanked FreedomWorks for its assistance. In the words of one White House staffer, "The [event] would not have been so successful if not for your efforts to turn out such a great crowd."
- **Representative Tom Feeney (R-FL)** thanked FreedomWorks members for handing out Social Security booklets at his town hall meeting on personal accounts and stressed the importance of FreedomWorks' larger educational efforts to the crowd of more than 500.
- FreedomWorks launched its "**take back AARP**" campaign with the unveiling of the website **takebackaarp.com** and a field strategy to distribute **thousands of postcards** that FreedomWorks members who are also members of AARP, can mail-in to demand the group change its liberal leadership and engage in a fair debate on Social Security reform.

General Activities: In order to raise the profile of Social Security reform through a system of personal accounts, FreedomWorks continues its aggressive earned media campaign, regular and special communications to members, and special events inside the beltway with prominent policy makers and noted experts.

- ✓ Earned media hits
 - FreedomWorks in *Townhall.com*, "Who's Afraid of Social Security Reform?" (1/29)
 - Jack Kemp in *USA Today*, "Why Bush Wants Personal Retirement Accounts" (2/3)
 - FreedomWorks in *The Washington Post*, "Conservatives Join Forces for Bush Plans" (2/13)
- ✓ Online Outreach
 - Emails were sent to our Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Arkansas lists urging activists to attend the President's Social Security town hall meetings
 - Righttalk internet radio show (available at www.righttalk.com)
Policy Director Max Pappas discussed reform on FreedomWorks's monthly radio show in a segment titled, "Transition Costs and Other Liberal Myths"
 - "CapWiz" Online Service
235 letters, emails, and faxes were sent to Congress asking them to support the President's plan to save Social Security
- ✓ Policy Communications Material (all are posted on www.freedomworks.org)
 - Matt Kibbe congratulates our activists for their hard work at the President's town hall meetings in "Nationwide, FreedomWorks Turns Out for PRAs" (2/15)
 - Member Joyce Krawiec shares her experience at the North Carolina activist meeting in "FreedomWorks State Summit: What a Weekend!" (2/14)
 - Cesar Conda dispels liberal lies about reform in "Personal Account Myths" (2/9)
 - Policy Director Max Pappas shows how investing in personal accounts is safe in "Senator Harry Reid: Roulette Aficionado?" (2/3)
 - FreedomWorks staff distributed quotes by prominent Democrats admitting that there's a Social Security crisis in "Enter the Ostrich Caucus" (1/28)
- ✓ Capitol Hill Events
 - Attended a Senate Democratic Caucus Social Security hearing (1/29)
Attendees read the Social Security booklet while waiting in line for the President's town hall. Public Affairs staff distributed pro-reform information to dispel the myths propagated at the liberal hearing.
 - Handed out FreedomWorks's Social Security primer at a conservative Congressional staff meeting (1/31)
Public Affairs Coordinator Michael Shiba distributed basic information on Social Security reform
- ✓ President Bush's Social Security Town Hall Tour
 - Members came to the town hall in Fargo, North Dakota (2/3)
FreedomWorks distributed the Social Security booklet as people entered the event
 - FreedomWorks had a presence at the town hall in Great Falls, Montana (2/3)
Member Colleen Lane directed fellow activists to the White House event
 - Activists appeared at the town hall in Little Rock, Arkansas (2/4)
Members showed up to support the President's plan despite poor weather
 - Members attended the townhall in Omaha, Nebraska (2/4)
One activist commented: "We enjoyed [the event] tremendously...it bolstered my son's conviction for the need [for] 'Social Security Reform'."
- ✓ District office visit with Representative Jim Leach (IA-2)
Leach's office noted that their office was bombarded by callers who received messages from an anonymous group opposing PRAs. They said, "The public needs to have the straight forward facts about why [Social Security] reform is necessary."
- ✓ FreedomWorks member Josh Wright was invited to sit in the President's box during the State of the Union address (2/2)
President Bush was impressed by Josh's enthusiasm at the White House Social Security town hall event in

Washington, DC

- ✓ Dick Armey spoke to members of the Republican Study Committee (RSC) on the urgent need for Social Security reform (2/7)
These Representatives took Armey's words to heart and presented a bold plan for Social Security reform with large accounts (6 percent) the very next day

Field Activities: The main objective of our activities in the field is to build a groundswell of support for Social Security reform at the grassroots level. A primary component of this strategy is to get volunteers in front of members of Congress while they are at home in their districts. By urging their legislators to support the President's reform plan, these activists are showing Congress that Americans want Personal Retirement Accounts and laying the ground-work for the tough battle that lies ahead.

Also critical to our efforts in the field is further educating the public and equipping current and potential activists with the tools they need to effectively speak out on this issue. The "Building a Nest Egg" Social Security booklets, as well as speaking engagements, radio show appearances, and letters to the editor campaigns help FreedomWorks staff and activists build the grassroots support necessary to make our efforts effective.

Florida

- ✓ Representative Tom Feeney's (R, Dist.24) Social Security Town Hall Meeting (1/31)
 - Distributed Social Security booklets
 - Tom Feeney thanked FreedomWorks for being on hand and stressed the importance of FreedomWorks' educational efforts
- ✓ President Bush's Social Security Town Hall in Tampa (2/4)
 - Brought 100 activists to the event
Many attendees donned FreedomWorks stickers and t-shirts
 - Member Carlos Huertas participated on stage with the President
Carlos compared the benefits of personal accounts to those of 401(k)s while discussing reform with President Bush
- ✓ *Florida FreedomWorks members pose before attending President Bush's town hall.*

Planning the Boca Raton stop of the Florida Social Security tour

Policy Director Max Pappas will detail the benefits of reform through PRAs at a luncheon on February 24th

- ✓ Organizing a Social Security meeting with Representative Ric Keller's office (R, Dist. 8)

Illinois

- ✓ Office Visits
 - Planning an office visit in Washington with Senator Barack Obama (D)
 - Organizing an office visit in Washington with Representative Mark Kirk (R, Dist. 10)
- ✓ Social Security Presentations
 - Illinois Director Bruno Behrend presented on Social Security at Student Activity Day at SIU (2/8)
Bruno urged 50 College Republicans to become active on the Social Security issue
 - Bruno is putting together a presentation on the benefits of personal accounts to the Chicago Republican Women's network
 - Bruno will cover the items on the Freedom Agenda including Social Security in a speech to the Republican Assembly of Lake County
- ✓ Activist John Knoerle placed a letter to the editor explaining details about the Social Security crisis in the *Chicago Tribune* (Week of 1/16-21)
- ✓ Bruno hosted a radio show and featured economist Craig Smith, proponent of the Ryan-Sununu Social Security

North Carolina

- ✓ Earned Media Mentions
 - Interview with the *Charlotte News and Observer* (1/29)
North Carolina Director Allen Page and Public Affairs Director Chris Kinnan discuss FreedomWorks's legislative strategy with a Charlotte newspaper.
 - Citizens for a Sound Economy in the *Charlotte News and Observer*, "Social Security Redesign Debated" (1/31)
 - FreedomWorks members appeared on NBC Raleigh (2/10)
Activists countered anti-Bush protesters at the President's Social Security event.
 - Member Cyndi Godfrey appeared in the *Statesville Landmark and Record* (2/11)
 - Member Cyndi Godfrey was shown on the *Greensboro News and Record* (2/11)
- ✓ Radio/Television
 - Featured on WTKF Moorehead City Radio (2/4)
The station covered FreedomWorks activity on Social Security reform in the state
 - Interview with CBS Radio (2/9)
Activist Joyce Krawiec made the case for personal accounts for Social Security on CBS Radio with Mike Fenley
 - Interview on WSJS (2/9)
Activist Joyce Krawiec explained details about the Social Security crisis on North Carolina talk radio
 - Interview with Channel 9 News (2/10)
Member Cyndi Godfrey appeared on Channel 9 News to discuss her conversation with the President
 - Interview on WTVD in Durham (2/10)
A FreedomWorks activist appeared on television discussing the President's town hall event
 - Interview on WRAL in Raleigh (2/10)
A FreedomWorks activist relayed the President's case for Social Security reform
 - Interview on WWCU at Western Carolina University (2/13)
Policy Director Max Pappas interviewed by FreedomWorks activist and radio host Brandon Randolph on the case for Social Security reform
- ✓ President Bush's Social Security Townhall
 - 6 Buses with 300 activists attended
 - FreedomWorks activist Cyndi Godfrey appeared on stage with the President
 - White House staff John Meyers said, "Thank you for all of your assistance and for turning out so many people to our event in Raleigh. The [event] would not have been so successful if not for your efforts to turn out such a great crowd."
- ✓ Meeting with North Carolina's best activists
 - 150 FreedomWorks activists learned about Social Security reform through personal accounts
 - *Activists boarded buses as early as 4:00 in the morning to get to the President's townhall in Raleigh.*
 - Dick Armey, Matt Kibbe, Rep. Howard Coble (NC-R, Dist.6), Rep. Patrick McHenry (NC-R, Dist.10) spoke on personal accounts
 - Brian Tringali from Terrance and Associates did a presentation on PRAs
 - The meeting was covered by two radio stations
- ✓ Scheduling meetings with Democratic representatives who came out against President Bush's plan to save Social Security
- ✓ Take Back AARP Postcards
Distributed 500 postcards members can mail to the AARP asking the group to change their liberal leadership
- ✓ Social Security Speeches
 - Spoke in Moorehead City to the Carteret County Republicans (2/12)

Allen Page explained the details of the Social Security crisis to Republican activists and passed out "Take Back AARP" postcards

- Spoke at the North Carolina Republican Women's Federation board meeting (2/11-2/12)
Member Joyce Krawiec explained the benefits of personal accounts to Republican grassroots leaders and passed out almost 300 booklets

Oregon

- ✓ *The Oregonian is interviewing FreedomWorks on Social Security reform*
3 Oregon FreedomWorks activists will be interviewed in regards to our activity on Social Security reform and will run the weekend of the 2/19-2/20
- ✓ Radio Interviews
 - Oregon Director Russ Walker spoke on Jane Carol's show (1/28)
Russ explained how PRAs will offer higher returns on KUIK in Portland
 - Russ was interviewed on Daybreak (2/9)
Russ told Larry George and his KUIK Portland listeners about the details of the Social Security crisis
 - Russ was asked to appear again on Daybreak (2/15)
On his second appearance, Russ proved how personal accounts would save Social Security
- ✓ District Office Visits
 - Senator Ron Wyden (D)
FreedomWorks activists were encouraged that Sen. Wyden's staff wanted to meet with them again despite Wyden's initial opposition to personal accounts.
 - Representative Greg Walden (R, Dist. 2)
 - Scheduling a meeting with Senator Gordon Smith (R)
- ✓ Social Security Presentations
 - Oregon Director Russ Walker urged Medford FreedomWorks to fight for reform (2/3)
Enthusiastic after Russ's presentation, activists took 4 boxes of booklets to distribute to others
 - Russ gave a Social Security presentation to a Marion County Republican club (2/8)
Russ spoke in front of a crowd of 30 people who took 3 boxes of booklets to give to friends and neighbors
 - Russ spoke about PRAs to a different Marion County Republican club (2/12)
60 people heard Russ's speech, and they took a total of 3 boxes of books
- ✓ Organizing activists to attend Senator Wyden's (D) town halls.

Washington State

- ✓ Organizing a visit to Representative Adam Smith's (D, Dist.9) Social Security Town Hall

Wisconsin

- ✓ District Office Visits
 - Representative Ron Kind (D, Dist.3) (2/1)
Rep. Kind's senior policy advisor recognized the long-term funding problems of Social Security due to demographic shifts
 - Representative Gwen Moore (D, Dist.4) (2/2)
Rep. Moore's staff recognized that FreedomWorks made a compelling argument for reform
- ✓ Meeting and townhall with Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (R, Dist.5) (2/14)
Six FreedomWorks activists came to urge Rep. Sensenbrenner to support personal accounts, telling him, "The only ways to fix the current problems are either to raise taxes, cut benefits, or seek a higher rate of return on Social Security dollars. The first two would create generational warfare."
- ✓ Social Security Speeches

- Wisconsin Director Cameron Sholty met with Fifth District Republican club on Social Security reform (1/29)
Cameron showed 15 Republicans how the system will run into the red by 2018
- Cameron did a presentation on PRAs to the First District Republicans (2/12)
Cameron explained how personal accounts will lead to higher returns to an audience of 40
- Cameron was a keynote speaker at the Ozaukee County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner (2/12)
After listening to his speech, Representative Paul Ryan's (R, Dist. 1) office asked Cameron to make Social Security presentations
- ✓ Interview on Wisconsin Public Radio (2/7)
State Director Cameron Sholty made the case for personal accounts on Kathleen Dunn's talk show
- ✓ Letter to the Editor Campaign
 - Activist Jennifer Trapp called on Congress to extend the same benefits to ordinary workers that they enjoy through the Thrift Savings Plan in the *Kenosha News* (2/3)
 - Wisconsin Director Cameron Sholty showed how Social Security is a Ponzi scheme that will fail in the *Leader-Telegram* (2/7)
 - Member Matt Augustine pointed out that Social Security reform will not affect the currently retired or those near retirement in the *Kenosha News* (2/15)



Social Security Update: January 2005

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- ✓ Earned media hits
 - FreedomWorks in the *Executive Intelligence Review*, "Cato Institute: Anti-Capitalist Clique Leads Attack on Social Security" (1/28)
 - Kemp in *The Weekly Standard*, "An Emerging Reform Majority" (1/24)
 - FreedomWorks in the *Executive Intelligence Review*, "Wall Street Insists Bush Take Social Security" (1/21)
 - Kemp in *The Weekly Standard*, "Social Security Snares & Delusions" (1/17)
 - Kemp in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, "Bush Is Pulling Out the Stops for Social Security Change" (1/17)
 - FreedomWorks in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, "Bush Kicks Off Push for Social Security Proposal" (1/12)
- ✓ Television/Radio
 - Armev interview on PBS, "Social Insecurity" (1/21)
 - Armev appearance on Fox News's "Weekend Live" with Brian Wilson (1/16)
 - Armev appearance on Fox News's "Hannity and Colmes" (12/31/04)
- ✓ Online Outreach
 - 2,590 emails and letters sent to representatives and senators urging them to support Social Security reform through personal accounts
- ✓ Showed real grassroots support for personal accounts at President Bush's Social Security townhall (1/11)
Members Scott Ballard of Washington and Josh Wright of Utah discussed Social Security reform with President Bush on stage. 40 North Carolina activists bussed into Washington, DC as part of the 80 member FreedomWorks delegation to the event.
- ✓ Brought activists to a Social Security address by Vice President Cheney at Catholic University (1/13)
- ✓ Policy Communications Material (all are posted on www.freedomworks.org)
 - Policy Director Shaun Small goes into detail about the Social Security crisis in "Social Security Reform: A Quick Look" (1/14)
 - Jack Kemp explains how PRAs will expand liberty in "Social Security Reform: An On-Ramp for the Expressway to Economic Freedom" (1/12)
 - FreedomWorks staff provide basic info on Social Security reform in "Social Security Reform Q&A" (1/11)
 - Chief Economist Larry Hunter shoots down the 'transition cost' myth in "No, Virginia, There Are No 'Transition Costs' for Social Security Reform" (1/10)
- ✓ Launched effort to counter AARP ad campaign with regular on-line communications to members and activists that directed them to contact their representatives on behalf of personal accounts (1/5)

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Florida

- ✓ *Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart commented that reform would not happen without the work that FreedomWorks is doing to educate and mobilize citizens.*

District office visits

- Representative Jim Davis (D, Dist.11)
Rep. Davis was initially opposed to personal accounts, but he was persuaded to keep an open mind on the issue by Volunteer Chapter leader Tom Gaitens.
- Representative Mark Foley (R, Dist. 16)
Rep. Foley noted, “FreedomWorks is always on the front line of all the tough battles in Congress.”
- Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R, Dist.21)
Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart asked FreedomWorks to keep the pressure on other Republicans to reform Social Security.
- Representative Tom Feeney (R, Dist.24)
During the meeting, Rep. Feeney asked FreedomWorks to participate in his Social Security townhall meeting.
- Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R, Dist.25)
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart said that “reform will not happen without the work that FreedomWorks is doing to educate and mobilize citizens.”

✓ Social Security Tour

- Boynton Beach Women’s Republican Club (1/18)
Florida Director John Hallman and finance expert Lee Roggenburg explained the benefits of PRAs to 80 people who were mostly retirees.
- Businessmen’s Association of the Palm Beaches (20 people) (1/19)
Hallman and Roggenburg spoke to a group of 20 businessmen about personal accounts. One person said, “PRA’s just make common sense.”

- ✓ Drummed up grassroots support for the upcoming Social Security townhall with Representative Feeney

Illinois

- ✓ Asked Representative Ray LaHood (R, Dist. 18) about his Social Security position at a public event (1/22)
Illinois Director Bruno Behrend got Rep. LaHood on record supporting the president’s plan to reform Social security.
- ✓ Radio show with Craig Smith, a proponent of personal accounts (1/29)

North Carolina

✓ District office visits

- Representative Walter Jones (R, Dist.3)
Over the holiday, FreedomWorks members told Rep. Walter Jones: ‘Tis the season for Social Security reform.
“Rep. Jones thanked us for sharing information on Social Security,” said FreedomWorks activist Kathy Hartkopf, “and we’re confident that he’ll support PRAs.”
- Representative Howard Coble (R, Dist.6)
FreedomWorks member Mary Elizabeth Irvin said, “Rep. Coble listened carefully to our thoughts and said that he stands with us on Social Security.

- Representative Robin Hayes (R, Dist.8)
"Rep. Hayes applauded us for all of the work we've done on Social Security reform," said FreedomWorks activist David Black.
- ✓ Distributed Social Security booklets at a meeting in Macon County (1/22)
The Social Security reform issue spurred residents to start their own FreedomWorks chapter
- ✓ Radio Shows
 - Mike Fenley of WSJS did a radio show from FreedomWorks's Washington, DC office (1/10)
Fenley followed activists that attended the President's townhall event all the way from North Carolina.
 - Appeared on a radio show on WTKF in Moorhead City, NC (1/19)
Activist Donna Williamson and Policy Director Max Pappas told listeners about the Social Security event with President Bush.
- ✓ Mailed out booklets to Columbia Forest Products to distribute to the Greensboro Republican Women

Oregon

- ✓ Speaking engagements
 - Deschutes County Republicans (1/18)
Oregon Director Russ Walker explained the benefits of personal accounts to over 50 activists and handed out 280 Social Security booklets.
 - Keizer Rotary (1/20)
Walker spoke to over 50 rotarians about the Social Security crisis and distributed 140 Social Security booklets.

Texas

- ✓ Speaking engagements
 - Dallas County Council of Republican Women (1/4)
Texas Director Tina Peyton persuaded 60 people to support PRAs.
 - First Republican Women (1/17)
Peyton explained the Social Security crisis to 40 people.
 - Park Cities Republican Women (1/18)
Peyton showed 60 people how personal accounts will provide for more benefits.
- ✓ Activist letters to the editor
 - Activist Dave Ragan exposes liberal reporting bias on Social Security reform in the *Dallas Morning News* (1/9)
- ✓ Social Security booklet drops
 - Park Cities Rotary
 - Dallas North
 - Garland Rotary
 - Preston Center
- ✓ Radio Shows
 - Guest on a radio show on KTEK in Houston with Terry Lowry (1/21)
Policy Director Max Pappas explained the Social Security crisis to the Houston audience.
 - Guest on a radio show on KTEK in Houston with Terry Lowry (1/26)
After being asked to come back, Pappas detailed the President's plan for personal accounts.

Washington State

- ✓ Office visit with Representative Doc Hastings (R, Dist. 4)
Rep. Hastings's Social Security aide took detailed notes and indicated that the congressman agreed with

FreedomWorks on PRA's.

- ✓ Activist Scott Ballard persuaded other Washingtonians to support the President's plan for PRAs and an ownership society
 - Spoke about PRAs at a rotary meeting
 - Taught local high school students about the Social Security crisis
 - Talked about the benefits of ownership on a radio program on KPQ Wenatchee

Wisconsin

- ✓ District office visit with Senator Herb Cole (D)
Members of Sen. Kohl's staff recognized that they hear regularly about Wisconsinites' concern over the future of Social Security.
- ✓ Activist letters to the editor
 - *WI FreedomWorks activist Troy Fullerton makes a persuasive case for PRAs to Sen. Herb Kohl's staff.*
- Wisconsin Director Cameron Sholty explains the Social Security crisis in the *Madison Capital Times* (1/24)
 - Activist Chris Muller shows that PRAs will offer higher returns in the *LaCrosse Tribune* (1/17)
 - Activist Jennifer Trapp proves that personal accounts will save Social Security in the *Kenosha News* (1/5)
- ✓ Planning a Social Security town hall event with Paul Ryan